Nixon Statement Praised by Hahn

By Elsie Carper
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MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 9 — Gilbert Hahn Jr., chairman of the District of Columbia Republican Party, praised presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon's statement on crime and said today, "I can lead a Republican campaign on that."

Hahn said that the pledges made by Nixon and by Spiro T. Agnew on law enforcement and Negro rights in their acceptance speeches before the Republican Convention Thursday night had dispelled some of his reservations about the ticket.

Law enforcement is a touchy issue among the city's prodominantly Negro electorate. Hahn had opposed Nixon's choice of Agnew for the vice presidential nomination because of Agnew's reputation as "a shoot-the-looters-man" and because of his denunciation of Negro leaders after the Baltimore riots.

In his acceptance speech, Nixon declared that his response "to those who say that law and order is the code word for racism . . . our goal is justice—justice for every American. If we are to have respect for law in America we must have laws that deserve respect."

Agnew pledged the ticket to building "independence and pride in the black community" and to making "black Americans partners in our system."

Hahn said about Agnew's speech, "I want to hear more from him, but we will stand or fall with Nixon. I am taking what he said at face value."

Hahn is confronted with two major tasks when he returns to the city this weekend. He has to build a Republican Party from scratch and run a presidential campaign. The local Party is virtually without a precinct organization.

His first job, he said, is to seek out Negroes to work for the Republican ticket.

"This isn't a 1964 situation at all," Hahn said. "Nixon isn't Goldwater. He is going to run a moderate-liberal campaign in urban areas."

Four years ago, Negro Republicans in the city refused to work for the ticket headed by Sen. Barry Goldwater. Some left the Party.

Hahn saw as one important gain this year the platform endorsment of representation for the city in Congress and of limited home rule. The platform was silent on these issues four years ago.

Barrington Parker, one of the city's three Negro delegates to the convention, said that Hahn will have difficulty in enlisting Negro assistance.

"I find Agnew very hard to live with," Parker said.